

REMARKS:

The original application was found by the examiner to consist of 13 separate invention groups. The inventor was asked to elect or restrict the application to only one of these.

In response to this, the inventor sent in an amendment which was filed on May 1, 2003. In that amendment, all claims were cancelled, and new ones drafted, so that the application referred to only one process invention.

The examiner found that the inventor had not adequately responded to the election/restriction request, and had, in the process of drafting new claims, changed the invention(s). In particular, the new claims did not describe the invention as pertaining to evaluating growth factors.

Therefore, the examiner requests all claims to be reinstated based on the original invention and the election/restriction request.

By way of this amendment, the applicant selects invention group I, original claims 1-4.

The current pending claims, 36 -51, have been re-written. With this amendment, the master process claim (claim 36) is essentially the same as original claim 1, with the addition of the process steps. Claim 36 now has language describing the process invention as pertaining to biological factors or ligands. Also, claims 38 and 39 read essentially the same as original claims 3 and 2, respectively. Claim 39 also refers to biological ligands. The word ligand now appears throughout the additional dependent claims..

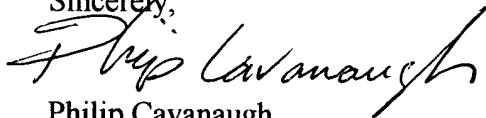
It is thought now that the claims presented refer back to the original invention of the evaluation of growth factors OR biological factors (group I: class 435, subclass 7.9).

Original claims 1 - 3 do refer to growth factors, and to the broader terms of biological factors and biological ligands. In this amendment, the narrower term of growth factors has been removed from the claims, since the specification does not in any way limit the process to growth factors, but specifies all biological factors or biological ligands, whether growth factors or not.

Claims 37 - 51, have been amended so that they are process or product claims dependent on process claim 36. Since these only further limit claim 36, it is thought that they do not constitute novel inventions. Since claim 36 is essentially the same as original claim 1, the claims all refer back to each other and constitute the pursuance of invention group I.

The inventor wishes to thank the examiner for the helpful comments to date, and hopes that the contents of this amendment read well, clarify the invention, and make for an easy review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Philip Cavanaugh".

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